

What is Public Nuisance Abatement?

This brochure describes how the citywide abatement process works to enhance quality of life issues in Lancaster.

The Public Nuisance

Abatement team is comprised of Lancaster Bureau of Police-Neighborhood Policing Officers; employees of the City Bureaus of Fire, Housing/Health Code Enforcement, Parks, and Streets; and the Lancaster County District Attorney's Office.

This Partnership targets neighborhood nuisances ranging from simple issues like high weeds to serious problems such as drug houses or disorderly bars.

Abatement is the process by which the City of Lancaster seeks resolution of nuisances. In many instances, the process is very easy and may simply involve a citizen's phone call to an appropriate City Bureau or Neighborhood Policing officer. In other cases, the police may seek legal assistance through the Lancaster County District Attorney's Office. Such assistance may involve criminal and/or civil action against a property owner or tenant. In all instances, nuisances are eliminated with the cooperation of City and County resources.

How does it work?

A "public nuisance" signifies an ongoing condition or activity that constitutes an unreasonable or unlawful use of property interfering with public rights. Generally, a condition or activity that is injurious to health, indecent, or offensive to the senses, or anything that obstructs your free use or enjoyment of life or property may be considered a public nuisance.

Examples.....

◎ Your neighbor's yard is overflowing with trash and high weeds. To abate this, simply call the Code Enforcement Office. As soon as practical, a City employee would inspect the property and take appropriate action against the owner.

◎ A neighborhood bar has become a nuisance due to loud groups, open drinking, or other unacceptable activity. Simply report your suspicion and document your observations for your Neighborhood Policing Officer. The officer will involve other resources as needed. In some cases, the District Attorney's Office or the State Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement will become involved. If applicable, Civil action may be pursued against the property owner.

What is the process?

- You identify a nuisance or a nuisance property.
- You contact the appropriate City Department or your Neighborhood Policing Officer and explain your concern. Be specific and provide as much information as possible.
- City employees will inspect the property or initiate further investigation.
- For in-depth issues, the NPO may work with other Police Divisions or he may contact other agencies such as the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, the City Solicitor, or the Lancaster County Drug Task Force.

➤ Occasionally, civil actions such as the Drug and Alcohol Nuisance Laws will be used to force abatement and/or penalize offenders.



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Partnerships & Problem-Solving

What can abatement do for you ? :

Public Nuisance abatement deals with problem properties ranging from single family dwellings to multi-unit apartments, bars, businesses and any other nuisance property.

The solutions available are as varied as the problems. With the cooperation of the Bureau of Police, Housing/Health Code Enforcement, Fire, Streets, and Parks Departments, the City is committed to keeping Lancaster a desirable place to live, work and visit.

We will tailor unique remedies to address individual problems such as:

- Removal of unsanitary items.
- Inspect and correct fire code violations
- Inspect and correct housing violations
- Enforce Liquor Code violations
- Eliminate nuisance bars or houses
- Secure vacant buildings
- Removal of hazardous or abandoned vehicles
- Removal of graffiti

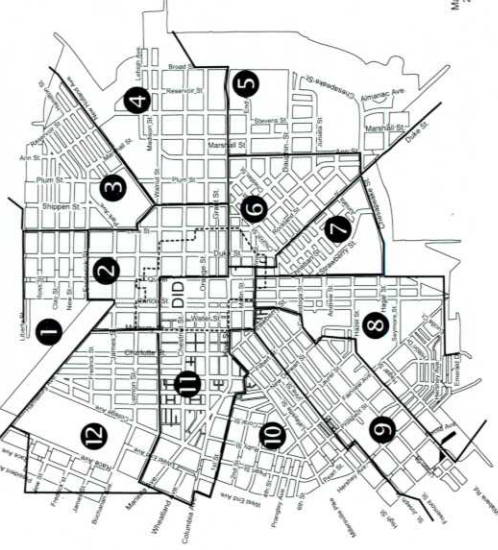
Lancaster Bureau of Police
Emergency- 911

To report a non-emergency –
664-1180

Neighborhood Policing Officer
 Voice Mail System:
291-4784

- Code Enforcement- 291-4706
- Zoning- 291-4762
- Fire Marshall- 291-4869
- Street Department- 291-4835
- Abandoned Vehicles- 291-4932
- Drug Suppression Unit- 291-4947
- Crime Prevention- 291-4896
- Mayor's Office- 291-4701

Neighborhood Policing Districts
 Lancaster City Bureau of Police



Map Updated 2/27/2002

Lancaster Bureau of Police
 39 E. Chestnut Street
 Lancaster, Pa. 17602
 (717) 291-4911
cityoflanasterpa.com

LANCASTER CITY

**Public Nuisance
 Abatement**



Neighborhood Policing

Eliminating nuisances in our neighborhoods.